

REMARKS

According to the Final Office Action, claims 9 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Lofgren et al. (US Publication No. 20020154144 A1).

Further according to the Final Office Action, claim 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Lofgren in view of Conwell (US Publication No. 2002002800 A1)

To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Final Office Action, claim 10 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 9 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 10, thereby making claim 9 and dependent claims 11 – 13 allowable.

Similarly, claim 15 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10, thereby making claim 15 allowable. No new matter has been added.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the examiner's correspondence and advance the prosecution of this case. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. It is believed that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is warranted per MPEP 706.07(e).

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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